

On behalf of the Asian Law Alliance and the Coalition for Justice and Accountability

California Public Records Act - May 30, 2025 – (CPRA REQUEST)

We request that this CPRA request remain in effect for one year. – please respond.

On May 30, 2025 we meet by Zoom, for approximately thirty minutes with two members of the Santa Clara County Counsel's Office, to discuss the nature of the below California Public Records Act. We requested that the meeting be recorded, however Melissa Kiniyalocts declined to consent to having the meeting recorded. Deputy County Counsel Sterling Larned also participated in the meeting.

Pursuant to the California Public Records Act we are requesting all documents related to the below listed items. This includes all forms of memorialized communications related to the Taser Pilot Project. This would include communications related to the pilot project between the sheriff's department and the OIR GROUP. All internal emails, memos, and other forms of written, digital communications between members of the sheriff's department regarding the Taser Pilot Project. All written communication in any format between the manufacture/vendor Axon and members of the sheriff's department. All communications regarding the Taser Pilot Project between the sheriff's department and the county executive, all members of the board of supervisors, and any other county employees who have worked on the Taser Pilot Project.

We understand that the amount of documents being requested may be voluminous. We also understand that the public records act is user friendly. We expect to work with county counsel in a collaborative fashion to insure that all documents and information we are entitled to are received in a timely fashion. We are also prepared to give County Counsel sufficient time to comply with our detailed requests. If any of our requests are not clear, ambiguous, we are prepared to work with county counsel to clarify all relevant requests.

BODY WORN CAMERA Footage & Taser digital footage

We request both the body worn camera and the TASER 10 camera footage in all instances when the Taser is fully deployed, when the Taser is drawn on an inmate, but not deployed and when the Taser is deployed but fails.

Instead of providing the raw footage, we request that the Sheriff set up a meeting for us to view the footage.

Taser Usage Policy (all documents)

What is the Taser usage policy of the Sheriff when pre-existing medical/psychological/psychiatric vulnerabilities of the inmate is known? Will the taser still be deployed on an inmate despite known physical psychological/psychiatric vulnerabilities? – documents and policy.

Documents regarding use of force, failure rate etc.

Any written information/reports, ***use of force reports for each deployment, and each time the Taser is pointed at an inmate but not deployed*** or when the Taser fails (***failure rate, taser fully deployment on inmate but fails to incapacitate the inmate***). – all documents.

Relevant Documents

Circumstances surrounding the deployment – documents.
 Location of the deployment - main jail or elmwood – documents.
 Race/ethnicity, age, any disability of the inmate – documents.
 Sex of the inmate and how they identify – documents.
 English language proficiency of the inmate. Other languages spoken by the inmate (proficiency). – documents.
 Language spoken by Sheriff's employee deploying the Taser. Documents. Was the warning to the inmate given in their primary language. – documents.

Pre-existing medical conditions etc. – documents

Prior to the deployment of the Taser, are the pre-existing medical conditions -psychological/psychiatric conditions of the inmate known to the deputy deploying the Taser. Documents. Are the medical/psychological/psychiatric vulnerabilities of the inmate taken into consideration before a Taser is deployed – documents - Is there a specific policy in this regard – documents
 Are the medical and psychological/psychiatric records available to the deputies prior to the deployment of the Taser – documents

Taser exposure and injury issues – documents

Number of exposure cycles necessary to incapacitate the inmate – documents.
 Number of exposure cycles the inmate was subjected to before an alternative method of incapacitation was employed – documents.
Impact of Taser deployment on the inmate (death, injury, necessity for medical follow-up - including injuries due to probe removal, puncture wounds, infections, scarring etc.) – documents.
 Any and all reports reflecting these injuries, reports by Sheriff's employees, third party medical personnel etc. – documents. Percentage of Taser deployments that required medical follow-up of any type – documents.

Injuries to deputies or third party employees and safety gear.

Injuries resulting from the deployment to deputies or other third parties? Any reports reflecting these injuries to deputies or third parties – documents.
 Protective gear worn by deputies and or third parties during the Taser Pilot Project, Goggles, etc.? – documents.

When the Taser weapon is not fired but is shown or pointed at the inmate

Relevant Documents

Circumstances surrounding the deployment – documents.
 Location of the deployment - main jail or elmwood – documents.
 Race/ethnicity, age, any disability of the inmate – documents.
 Sex of the inmate and how they identify – documents.
 English language proficiency of the inmate. Other languages spoken by the inmate (proficiency). – documents.

Language spoken by Sheriff's employee pointing the Taser? Was the warning to the inmate given in their primary language. – documents.

Pre-existing medical conditions etc. – documents

Prior to the deployment of the Taser, are the pre-existing medical conditions -psychological/psychiatric conditions of the inmate known to the deputy prior to the pointing of the Taser at the inmate. – documents. Are the medical/psychological/psychiatric vulnerabilities of the inmate taken into consideration before a Taser is pointed at the inmate – documents - Is there a specific policy in this regard – documents

Are the medical and psychological/psychiatric records available to the deputies prior to pointing the Taser at the inmate. – documents

Pointing Taser at inmate, trauma related injuries

Impact of pointing the Taser weapon at the inmate (death, injury, necessity for medical follow-up - including psychological trauma caused by the pointing of the Taser at the inmate. etc.) – documents.

Any and all reports reflecting these injuries, reports by Sheriff's employees, third party medical personnel etc. – documents. Percentage of times of the mere pointing of the Taser at an inmate required medical/psychological treatment follow-up of any type – documents.

Taser failure rate (Taser is deployed, but fails)

Relevant Documents

Circumstances surrounding the deployment – documents.

Location of the deployment - main jail or elmwood – documents.

Race/ethnicity, age, any disability of the inmate – documents.

Sex of the inmate and how they identify – documents.

English language proficiency of the inmate. Other languages spoken by the inmate (proficiency). – documents.

Language spoken by Sheriff's employee deploying the Taser. Documents. Was the warning to the inmate given in their primary language. – documents.

Pre-existing medical conditions etc. – documents

Prior to the deployment of the Taser, are the pre-existing medical conditions -psychological/psychiatric conditions of the inmate known to the deputy deploying the Taser. Documents. Are the medical/psychological/psychiatric vulnerabilities of the inmate taken into consideration before a Taser is deployed – documents - Is there a specific policy in this regard – documents.

Are the medical and psychological/psychiatric records available to the deputies prior to the deployment of the Taser – documents

Number of exposure cycles necessary to incapacitate the inmate?

Number of exposure cycles the inmate was subjected to before an alternative method of incapacitation was employed?

Impact of Taser deployment on the inmate (death, injury, necessity for medical follow-up - including injuries due to probe removal, puncture wounds, infections, scarring etc?) Any and all reports reflecting these injuries. Reports by Sheriff employees – documents. Third party medical personnel – documents. Percentage of Taser deployments that required medical follow-up of any type – documents. Any and all written reports reflecting said injuries.- documents

Injuries resulting from the deployment to deputies or other third parties? Any reports reflecting said injuries to deputies or third parties.

Protective gear worn by deputies and or third parties during the Taser Pilot Project? Goggles, etc.? – documents.

What is the cost to the county when treating injuries caused by the Taser weapon – documents.

What was the cost to the county for the purchase of the 75 Tasers- documents

Since the TASER pilot project needs to be fully analyzed on either the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of the weapon, we request that all records on the use, failure rates, *pointed at inmate but not deployed) etc.* be retained for this analysis and review for a minimum of one year.

Sincerely,

Richard Konda rkonda@asianlawalliance.org

Aram James abjpd1@gmail.com